

Suggested *voir dire* questions for interpreters

- Do you have any particular training or credentials as an interpreter?
- What is your native language?
- How did you learn English?
- What was the highest grade you completed in school?
- Have you spent any time in a country where this language is commonly spoken?
- Did you formally study the non-native language in school? To what extent?
- Do you know the applicable legal terms in both languages?
- Are you a potential witness in this case?
- Do you have any other potential conflicts of interest?
- Have you had an opportunity to speak with the non-English speaking person informally? (if not, consider providing an opportunity now.)
  - Based on your discussion with the non-English speaking person, were there any communication problems? (Note: if this occurs in the court's presence, pay attention to the interaction, and the non-English speaking person's facial clues to gauge understanding of the interpreter)
- Are you familiar with the dialectal or idiomatic peculiarities of the witnesses?
- Can you interpret simultaneously?
- Can you interpret consecutively?
- Do you have teaching experience?
- Have you interpreted in any non-court settings?
- Have you ever had your interpreting skills evaluated?
- Have you ever been qualified by a judge to interpret in court?
- Have you ever been disqualified from interpreting in any court or administrative hearing?
- Have you had training in professional ethics for Court Interpreters?
- Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation of any federal law, state law, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance?